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the profession of skilled nursing, in hospital reform, and in the reorganization of military medicine. It seems fitting that at this time acknowledgment should be made of some of her more important contributions to the vital and social statistics of the nineteenth century.

The more significant lessons from the statistical work of Florence Nightingale can be applied at the present time when our libraries are fairly bulging with volumes of sterile tables and text, the result of the stimulation of registration and investigative activities by various community interests in the past few decades.

Miss Nightingale contributed to the progress of official and private statistics in two important respects: first, in being responsible for a plan of uniform hospital records and statistics, for an attempt to extend the scope of the British Census of 1861 so as to include housing and sickness data, for the outline of sanitary statistics of the British Army, afterward put into effect by Dr. Thomas Graham Balfour, for the schedules and tabular practice of the stational sanitary reports of the Army in India, and for numerous other purely technical procedures in vital statistics; second, she gave a practical demonstration of the *use* of statistics, in the marshalling of tabulated materials, the graphing of essentials, and in the preparation of compelling, result-bringing text. A thorough reading of the report "Notes on Matters Affecting the Health, Efficiency and Hospital Administration of the British Army" is to be recommended to our American students of statistics in order that they may become acquainted with the elements of the Nightingale style,—clearness, force, simplicity, and the special characteristic "humorous subacidity." "Statistics for statisticians" were, to her mind, an abomination. *Analyses* of tabulated facts on sanitation and on the conduct of public affairs were to her a lever for overcoming the inertia of the legislative mind, of smugly buttressed officialdom, and of an amorphous public conscience.

The Nightingale Centenary should direct the attention of American teachers of statistics to the necessity for shifting the point of view of statistical practitioners. There should be greater emphasis upon ends to be served, and less upon ways and means of compiling data. A survey of statistical activity in America today would perhaps show that much of our effort is aimless. There is laborious and expensive endeavor to produce ponderous tomes, and then feverish activity to find a market for the product. There seems to be a need for a statement of the kinds or sorts of facts, of new methods of analysis and presentation, and for style elements, which will bring results other than the cluttering of library shelves. And in the Nightingale style, one detects more or less the influence of Quetelet, of Farr, and of Laplace. Miss Nightingale was an eager student of the great Belgian's work. This suggests that American students of statistics are not taught the significance of the work of these three pioneers of nineteenth century statistical science. It would be perhaps more profitable to abandon some of the precepts of the young American "school" which imitates the German encyclopedists, and get back to Quetelet and Laplace.

M. A. NUTTING and E. W. KOPF.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

International Eugenics Congress. Following the First International Congress in Eugenics that was held in London in August, 1912, there is to be held a Second International Congress of Eugenics in New York City, September 22–28, 1921. The headquarters of the congress will be in the American Museum of Natural History. The honorary president of the congress is Alexander Graham Bell; the president, Dr. H. F. Osborn; treasurer, Madison Grant; and secretary general, Dr. C. C. Little,

of Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y. The work of the congress is divided into four sections. The first is devoted to studies in human heredity, including also research in the domain of pure genetics in animals and plants, which will throw light upon human heredity. In this section may be received also certain papers on the physiology of reproduction. The second section will consider factors that influence the human family, and the control of such factors; the relation of fecundity of different strains in families, and the question of social and legal control of such fecundity; also the differential mortality of the eugenically superior and inferior stocks, and the influence upon such mortality of special factors, such as war and epidemic and endemic diseases. Mate selection will be stressed. The third section is concerned with human racial differences. Here will be considered the facts of the migrations of races, the influence of racial characteristics on human history, and the teachings of the past with its bearings on the policy of the future. The fourth section will discuss eugenics in relation to the state, to society, and to education. "In each section the Congress will present carefully worked out facts and the immediate and practical conclusions to which they lead." Special stress will be laid upon the results of experimental and statistical research. The importance of the intellectual, social, and economic aspects will, of course, be pointed out in the section devoted to these various fields. All foreign papers should be in the hands of the secretary general not later than May first, and all papers from Canada and the United States not later than June 15. Foreign governments and many universities and learned societies have been asked to send delegates.

Reports on Operating Expenses in Retail Trades. The Bureau of Business Research, Harvard University, during the last year has issued reports on operating expenses in the retail shoe, grocery, hardware, drug, and jewelry trades, and in the wholesale grocery business for the year 1919. Each of these reports gives detailed statistics regarding expenses, profits, stock-turn, and ratios for a few items on the balance sheets of the stores. Similar summaries are to be prepared for the retail jewelry trade, for department stores, and probably for several other trades for the year 1920. The Bureau also is continuing its compilation of comparative prices for staple cotton cloth in the United States, England, India, China, and Japan. The reports for December and January, for example, indicated that at current rates of exchange, prices of staple cotton goods were lower in the United States than in any of these foreign countries. The Bureau plans to add price comparisons for several other markets as soon as reliable price quotations are available.

An Employment Service Study.—A study of public employment in the United States has been undertaken by the Russell Sage Foundation. The general purpose is to gather the experience of this country in planning, organizing, and administering public employment work. The work undertaken groups itself into three main parts. The first part includes the questions which have to do with the general organization and administration of the service. They include, among others, questions as to federal, federal-state, or some other unit of administration; the organization and function of the service from the federal center to the local ends; the status of the service in the federal, state, or local government organization; and the distribution of offices. The second part relates to the administration of the local offices, and the technique of the local service. This includes office layout; the placement process; practice in receiving, registering, interviewing, and referring applicants; forms and blanks in use; and so on. The third part covers the questions regarding the place and function of the service in our industrial life, local and national—what the obstacles are which the

public employment service must meet and overcome if it is to have a healthy and reasonably rapid development, etc. The investigations have been made by Mary La-Dame, Leslie E. Woodcock, J. B. Buell, Fred A. King, and Helen B. Russell, nearly all of whom have been employed at one time or another in public or private employment work. Their experience has been gathered in several different sections of the country. The study is under the general direction of Shelby M. Harrison.

New Commerce Classification. The new schedules for the classification of imports and exports of the United States, which it was originally hoped might be inaugurated at the beginning of this calendar year, can hardly be put into effect for another year. The Department of Commerce has been unable to obtain hearings on the bill for the consolidation of the statistical divisions of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and the Customs Division of the Treasury Department, and consequently no additional appropriation for the new classification is yet available. The long delay in securing the hearings has been due to the fact that the bill in which provision for the new classification is incorporated was reintroduced in December as new legislation, and thus had to be referred to the Commerce Committee. When that Committee has approved suggested consolidation of offices, the bill will have to go before the Appropriations Committee for the consideration of the additional funds required to put the classification into effect. There appears to be no prospect of early action. Furthermore, it will be practically impossible to introduce the new schedules this year even if Congress should grant the necessary appropriations during the present session.

Child Labor Turnover. Of special interest to statistical students is the report on child labor recently published by the Children's Bureau.* The methods of analysis familiar in the construction of life tables are applied in this study to the registration statistics of child labor—the granting of employment certificates. A cohort of children born in a single year is followed from the fourteenth birthday, and the increasing proportion of children seeking employment is shown month by month until the sixteenth birthday is reached. Unemployment is studied in a similar manner. The decrease in the rate of new cases of unemployment is brought out month by month as the children's industrial experience lengthens, and the duration of these periods of unemployment is measured. Incidentally, it might be pointed out that this method of analysis of unemployment offers great possibilities in its application to unemployment among adults.

Legitimate and Illegitimate Birth-Rates. A comparative statement of legitimate and illegitimate birth-rates for the principal countries for the period 1907–1914 is given in a recent bulletin published by the Children's Bureau.† The report contains also comparative material as far as available for the various states and cities in the United States, compiled from state reports on vital statistics or from original data. An estimate of 32,400 illegitimate white births for the United States is given for the year 1915, an estimate which may be fairly considered as a minimum statement, in view of the incompleteness of the birth registration and the erroneous registration of illegitimate as legitimate births.

* *Industrial Instability of Child Workers.* A study of employment certificate records in Connecticut. By Robert Morse Woodbury.

† *Illegitimacy as a Child Welfare Problem: Part I. A brief treatment of the prevalence and significance of birth out of wedlock, the child's status, and the state's responsibility for care and protection.* By Emma C. Lundberg and Katharine F. Lenroot.

Local Section of the Statistical Association Established in Pittsburgh. Through the efforts of Professor Donald M. Marvin, head of the Department of Statistics at the University of Pittsburgh, a local section of the American Statistical Association has been organized at Pittsburgh. The local members have elected the following officers: President, Roswell Johnson, School of Mines, University of Pittsburgh; Vice-President, Earl F. Evans, The Graphic Service Company; Secretary-Treasurer, Donald M. Marvin; Counsellors, J. Freeman Guy, Statistician of the Board of Education, S. L. Nicholson, Statistician of the Westinghouse Electric Company.

The death of Signor Luigi Bodio, one of the world's most distinguished statisticians and economists, occurred in Rome on November 2, 1920, within three weeks after his eightieth birthday. Signor Bodio, a senator of the Kingdom of Italy, was president of the International Statistical Institute. He was also honorary sectional president of the Council of State, president of the Superior Council of Statistics, president of the Council of Emigration and member of the Royal Academy "dei Lincei," vice-president of the Italian Geographical Society, Correspondent of the Institute of France (*Academie des Sciences Morales et Politiques*), Associate of the Statistical Society of Paris, Honorary Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society of London, Honorary Member of the Geographical and Statistical Society of Frankfurt, of the Statistical Society of Berne, of the Statistical Society of Manchester, and of the American Statistical Association. He was also a member of the International Colonial Institute of Brussels. He was a foundation member of the International Statistical Institute which was established in London, England, on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Royal Statistical Society in 1885. He became, in fact, first Secretary General of the Institute at the time when he held the office of Director General of the Statistics of the Kingdom of Italy, his election to this office being especially appropriate in view of the fact that the first meeting of the Institute was held at Rome in 1887. He held the office of Secretary General until the London Meeting of 1905, when, on his resignation, he was elected Honorary Secretary General. After the death, on November 28, 1908, of the President of the Institute, Dr. Karl Theodor Von Inama-Sternegg, at the meeting of the General Assembly at the Paris meeting on July 10, 1909, Signor Bodio was unanimously elected president of the Institute, the late M. E. Levasseur having declined that honor. During the course of his membership of the Institute, Signor Bodio attended all the thirteen meetings of the Institute with two exceptions, and he contributed to the proceedings a large number of reports and papers on statistical subjects, including especially studies relating to statistics of criminality and emigration. He was also associated with the late M. E. Levasseur in his important studies relating to the area and population of the countries of the world. His last public appearance in his capacity as president of the Institute was at the 13th Session held at Vienna, September 9-13, 1913, when the Permanent Office of the Institute was formed, in the direction of which as president he took a leading part. Signor Bodio was a member of the Commission on Statistics set up in 1920 to advise a policy for the League of Nations, and acted as chairman at the meetings of the Commission held at Paris in October, 1920.

Mr. R. H. Coats, Dominion statistician for Canada, returned in November from the meeting held at Paris, October 11-15, of the Commission appointed by the Council of the League of Nations to consider the organization of an international system of statistics under the League. While in Europe, Mr. Coats also attended the meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labor Office, at Geneva, October 5-7, as

the representative of Canada. Mr. Coats was the member for Canada of the British Empire Statistical Conference which sat in London for six weeks during the winter of 1920 (January 20 to February 26, 1920).

The University of Oxford has awarded the Weldon Medal and the Weldon Memorial Prize to Dr. J. Arthur Harris of the Station for Experimental Evolution of the Carnegie Institution of Washington in recognition of his work in statistical biology. This prize may be awarded every third year ". . . without regard to nationality, sex, or membership of any university, to the person who, in the judgment of the electors, has, in the six years next preceding the date of the award, published the most noteworthy contribution to Biometric Science, in which either (i) exact statistical methods have been applied to some problem of Biology, or (ii) statistical theory has been extended in a direction which increases its applicability to problems of Biology. Biology shall, for the purposes of this clause, be interpreted as including Zoölogy, Botany, Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, and Medical Science."

Professor Raymond Pearl, head of the Department of Biometry and Vital Statistics and director of the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University, has been awarded the decoration of Knight of the Crown of Italy by the King of Italy. Beginning December 1, Professor Pearl gave a series of lectures at the Lowell Institute in Boston on the "Biology of Death." These lectures will be published later in book form.

Mr. Paul W. Garrett, formerly connected with the American International Corporation, is now with the financial department of the *New York Evening Post*.

Mr. R. von Huhn has been appointed chief statistician of the Edison Storage Battery Company at West Orange, New Jersey.

Mr. Robert Henderson, formerly actuary for the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, has been made second vice-president of the company.

The Committee on the Mathematical Analysis of Statistics of the National Research Council is working on a handbook on statistical methods which will soon be published. The committee consists of Doctors Rietz, Glover, Huntington, Kelly, Pearl, and Persons.

The United States Life Tables for 1890, 1901, 1910, and 1901-1910 are now in the press and probably will be available within the next three months.

Professor Donald M. Marvin, of the School of Economics of the University of Pittsburgh, has been made head of the new Department of Statistics established by the university. Professor Marvin is developing a laboratory for training in statistical methods and their application.

APPOINTMENTS ON COMMITTEES FOR 1921

At a meeting of the Board of Directors on January 22, 1921, in New York City, the following appointments were made:

Associate Editors: Edmund E. Day, Louis I. Dublin, Wesley C. Mitchell, Horace Secrist, Leo Wolman; Assistant Secretaries: E. A. Goldenweiser for Washington,